National policy for global warming

465. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASHEKHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulate a new national policy for addressing the issue of global warming;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by when that is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The National Environment Policy 2006 of Ministry of Environment & Forests *inter alia* addresses the issue of global warming. The following comprise essential elements of India's response to climate change:

(1) Adherence to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities of different countries in respect of both mitigation of green house gases (GHGs), an adaptation measures.

(2) Reliance on multilateral approaches, as opposed to bilateral or plurilateral or unilateral measures.

(3) Equal per-capita entitlements of global environmental resources to all countries.

(4) Over-riding priority of the right to development.

(5) Identify key vulnerabilities of India to climate change, in particular impacts on water resources, forests coastal areas, agricultre, and health.

(6) Assess the need for adaptation to future climate change, and the scope for incorporating these in relevant programmes, including watershed management, coastal zone planning and regulation; forestry management, agricultural technologies and practices, and health progremmes.

(7) Encourage Indian Industry to participate in the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) through capacity building for identifying and preparing CDM projects, including in the financial sector.

(8) Participate in voluntary partnerships with other countries both developed and developing, to address the challanges of sustainable development and climate change, consistent with the provisions of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Further, the Government has also set up "Expert Committee on Impacts of Climate Change" in May 2007 to study the impacts of anthropogenic climate change on India and to identify the measures that we may have to take in the future in relation to addressing vulnerability to anthropogenic climate change impacts.

Acoordination committee chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister called "Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change to coordinate national action for assessment, adaptation and mitigation of climate change" was constituted on 6th June 2007. The focus of the Committee would be to:

I. Evolve a coordinated response to issues relating to climate change at the national level;

II. Provide oversight for formulation of action plans in the area of assessment, adaptation and mitigation of climate change;

III. Periodically monitor key policy decisons.

(c) Does not arise in view of the reply to parts (a) & (b) above.

Warning of global warming

466. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have come across the warning issued by WHO at a workshop on climate change that was held at Kuala Lumpur that "global policy makers must act quickly to address the critical problem of global warming or face serious health and economic consequences"; and

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir. World Health Organisation (WHO) has not issued such warning at the Kuala Lumpur Workshop on climate change held in July 2007 that "global policy makers must act quickly to address the critical problem of global warning or face serious health and economic consequances".

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

Extraction of dolomite from Bhutan

†467. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that due to indiscriminate extraction of dolomite from Bhutan Hills, the rivers on the Indian side are getting silted causing flood every year; and

(b) if so, whether Government would take up the matter with the Bhutan Government to stop extraction of dolomite to save endangered flora and fauna?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A joint Group of Experts (JGE) on flood management has already been constituted between Indian and Bhutan to discuss and assess the probable causes and effects of the recurring floods and erosion in the southern foothills of Bhutan and adjoining plains in India. Subsequently on the recommendation of JGE a Joint Technical team has been constituted, which in its preliminary report has suggested studies and preparation of maps for deciding remedial measures.

Sports infrastructure in Karnataka

468. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to develop sports infrastrucutre in Karnataka during the last five years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Till 31.3.2005, the Ministry was supplementing the efforts of state Governments for creating of sports facilities in various places, including rural areas, by providing assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Sports Infrastructure scheme. But with effect from 1.4.2005, the Sports Infrastructure Schemes have been transferred to the State Governments.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.